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WELLS BOARD OF HEALTH
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Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District

Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1956.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector....Mr.H.Longden, M.A.P.H.I.





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Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District Council
Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1956.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District during the year 1956.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 19/56(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....1673 acres.

The Urban District of Llanwrtyd Wells forms part of the County of Brecon and is situated in the northern part of the County. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. The Urban District is a well known holiday resort where advantage is taken of the medicinal springs in the locality.

Population.

Census 1931.....742
Census 1951.....560
Estimated at Midsummer 1956.....520

Population estimated during last 10 years.

<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
618	640	682	660	562	552	546	530	520	520

As will be seen from above, the population in the district is slowly but surely dropping.

Number of inhabited houses.....188. This gives an average number of 2.7 persons per house.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
	4	3	7	13.4

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 15.7. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and, as will be seen, was also much lower than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. There was one illegitimate birth registered during the year.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live&Still Births</u>
	1	1	2	222.2

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 23.0. The district rate was therefore very much higher than the national average and illustrates perfectly the effect of a small number of still births on a comparatively small total number of births.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	7	5	12	23.0

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and regrettably also much higher than the district birthrate.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. No such death occurred in the district during the year whereas the national rate was 23.8 per 1000 live births.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths occurred which could be attributed to childbirth. This is a very satisfactory feature.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.
 Respiratory Tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Other Tuberculous disease.....Nil.
 Cancer.....Two.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....7. Females....5.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	0.	1.
Malignant neoplasms, stomach.....	0.	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	1.	0.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1.	1.
Coronary disease.....	3.	0.
Other heart disease.....	2.	0.
Influenza.....	0.	1.
Other causes.....	0.	1.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services. There were no changes in the Council's Health Officers during the year, Mr. H. Longden remaining as the Public Health Inspector.

There are no Committees, as such, concerned with health matters, the full Council deal with all matters.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, and Aberystwyth. The laboratory of the Public Analyst for the County of Carmarthen was available for water samples whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen.

Nursing Facilities etc. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the local hospital at Builth Wells.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of smallpox cases arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Hereford Fever Hospital also is able to take cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. The methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district were the same as detailed in previous years. Work done in the previous year has resulted in some improvement to the supply to the upper parts of the district, but even now, the supply is not entirely satisfactory. No new work was done during the year.

The Public Enquiry into the major water scheme was held during August of the year and it is to be hoped that there will be little further delay in implementing this, or some other scheme, as there is no doubt that the water supply to Llanwrtyd is far from satisfactory.

Number of inspections made.....169.
Two bacteriological samples were taken during the year, both were reported as being unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage. The drainage of the district and the excellent sewage disposal works continued to function satisfactorily during the year. Certain works of maintenance previously authorised were completed by the end of the year.

Number of inspections made.....51.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection and disposal of house refuse. This is collected twice weekly by a contractor in the district and disposed of by tipping. There was some slight improvement in the methods used for disposal.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The Sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....27.
Number of complaints investigated.....27.
Number of premises inspected.....27.
Number of premises revisited.....134.
Number of preliminary notices served.....18.
Number of abatement notices served.....0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. No common lodging houses exist in the district.

Shops.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....28
Number of notices served.....0

Licensed Premises.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....32
Number of notices served.....0

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....9
Number of visits of inspection made.....29
Number of notices served.....3
Number of defects found.....3
Number of defects remedied.....1

Camping Sites. There are no recognised camping sites in the district.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

One premises was found to be verminous during the year,and was disinfeste

Rodent Control.This work is performed by a Council Workman.

Number of premises inspected,including revisits.....	241.
Number found infested.....	35.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....	33.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	2.

The sewers were also treated during May of the year.17 manholes were baited.

Legal ProceedingsNo legal action was taken during the year.

Tents,Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....	0.
Number of notices.....	0.

Section 4.Housing.

No Council or private houses were built during the year.Judging by the applications received for tenancies of the Council houses,the housing need of the district is not great.

One application for improvement grant was received during the year,and was granted.

Housing Consolidated Regulations,1925,Article 31.At the request of the Welsh Board of Health,details of action under these regulations are reintroduced.As far as the year under review was concerned,no action was undertaken.

Number of inspections under Housing Act.....	19.
Number of notices served.....	1.

Section 5.Inspection and Supervision of Food.

In connection with clean food no educational activity occurred during the year.The number of food premises,by type,in the district were: 6 Licensed Premises, 2 bakehouses, 3 butchers, 6 cafes and 7 others carrying on a "mixed" business.

Food & Drugs Act,1955.Section 16.The premises registered under this section were 5 ice cream premises and 3 butchers.

Milk.Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act,1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of milk distributors.The results of samples taken during the year are shown below.

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies.....	18.
Number of samples taken during the year.....	10.
Number of samples reported as satisfactory.....	8.
Number of samples reported as unsatisfactory.....	2.
Five samples of milk were also examined for presence of tuberculosis.	
All were reported negative.	

Meat.There is no slaughterhouse in the district,and meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Points at Builth Wells and Brecon.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....	87.
Number of notices served.....	3.

Ice Cream Premises. In view of the possible occurrence of infectious disease caused by ice cream 26 visits of inspection were made by the Public Health Inspector.

Number of producer retailers.....1.
 Number of retailers only.....4.
 The only producer of ice cream in the district complies fully with the Heat Treatment Regulations.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections.....29.

Fried Fish Shops. There was no fried fish shop in the district during the year.

Food Condemned. Fourteen pounds of fish and 100 pounds of beef were condemned during the year. The food was burnt in both cases,

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

Cerebrospinal fever..... 1 case.
 Whooping Cough..... 1 case.
 Measles..... 3 cases.

As will be seen the district was again practically free from infectious disease during the year. The case of cerebrospinal fever was removed to Hereford Hospital where complete recovery resulted. No death was caused by any of these infectious diseases.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of such cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....7.
 Number of cases entered during the year.....3.
 Number of cases removed as deceased.....0.
 Number of cases removed as recovered.....1.
 Number of cases removed as left district.....1.
 Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....8.
 Contacts of cases are now offered prophylactic treatment by B.C.C.

The Number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.

1. 0. 0. 2. 0. 1. 0. 4. 2. 3.

All these three cases were transfers from other districts.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, at the schools during the school medical inspections, and also by the General practitioners.

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Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remain the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health